

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for intellectual property budget management, comprising:
 - identifying a plurality of intellectual property assets;
 - identifying a status of the intellectual property assets; and
 - calculating a projected cost associated with the intellectual property assets over a predetermined time period based on the status thereof.
2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the projected cost includes prosecution costs and maintenance fees.
3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the projected cost includes government fees.
4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the projected cost includes prosecution firm fees.
5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the status is selected from the group consisting of a disclosure state, a pending state, a patented state, and an abandoned state.
6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein each status has an associated action item cost associated therewith.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein each action item cost is added to calculate the projected cost.
8. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein each action item cost is updated via a network.
9. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein each action item cost is looked up in a table.
10. A method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising identifying the projected cost at multiple instances in time, and comparing the same.
11. A method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising receiving an estimated intellectual property budget.
12. A method as recited in claim 11, and further comprising determining a number of additional intellectual property assets capable of being filed based on the projected cost and the intellectual property budget.
13. A method as recited in claim 12, and further comprising altering at least one of the intellectual property budget, an aspect of the projected cost, and the number of additional intellectual property assets capable of being filed; and updating a remaining at least one of the intellectual property budget, the aspect of the projected cost, and the number of additional intellectual property assets capable of being filed; based on the alteration.
14. A method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising receiving a number of additional intellectual property assets to be filed.

15. A method as recited in claim 14, and further comprising determining an estimated intellectual property budget based on the number of additional intellectual property assets based on the additional intellectual property assets to be filed.
16. A method as recited in claim 15, and further comprising altering at least one of the intellectual property budget, an aspect of the projected cost, and a number of additional intellectual property assets capable of being filed; and updating a remaining at least one of the intellectual property budget, the aspect of the projected cost, and the number of additional intellectual property assets to be filed; based on the alteration.
17. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a score is associated with the intellectual property assets; and further comprising determining a cut-off score indicating that an action item cost associated intellectual property assets falling below the score will not be expended, and updating the projected cost based on the determination.
18. An intellectual property application program interface, comprising:
 - at least interface object for interfacing at least one firm docketing system adapted for docketing intellectual property and dates associated therewith; and
 - an intellectual property management module for communicating information with the interface object, the intellectual property management module capable of processing the information associated with a plurality of the docketing systems associated with a plurality of different firms;wherein the information is transmitted over a wide area network.
19. A computer-implemented method for identifying licensable intellectual property, comprising:

identifying a plurality of patents owned by at least one entity; and
ranking the patents based on a licensing potential thereof.

20. A computer-implemented method for identifying valuable intellectual property, comprising:

identifying a plurality of patents owned by at least one entity; and
ranking the patents based on a licensing potential thereof.

21. A computer-implemented intellectual property method, comprising:

determining a number of words in the claims of plurality of patents; and
identifying the patents based on the number of words in the claim.

22. A method for identifying valuable intellectual property, comprising:

identifying a first entity and a second entity which each own a plurality of
patents; and
identifying the patents of the first entity that are referenced by the patents of the
second entity.

23. A computer-implemented method for categorizing intellectual property, comprising:

identifying a plurality of classification-based technical categories assigned to
intellectual property by at least one government agency;
aggregating the classification-based technical categories into a plurality of user-
defined technical categories; and
organizing the intellectual property in accordance with the user-defined technical
categories based on the aggregation.